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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TESOL 2004 CONVENTION NOMINEES

¶1. Amman-based Regional English Language Office and in cooperation with PA Beirut, PA Jerusalem and ACC Jerusalem nominates the following candidates to attend the TESOL 2004 Convention at Long Beach, California March 30 - April 4, 2004: Dr. Elias Ghazal, Lebanon; Ms. Edith Bitar, Lebanon; Mr. Shukri Kandeel, Jordan, Mr. Mahmud Abdul Fattah Ismail, Jerusalem; and Ms. Inas Deeb, Jerusalem. This program supports MPP goals of promoting mutual understanding, regional stability, and support of English teaching as well as forming the basis for people-to-people programs in their respective countries and the US specifically, the participation of all candidates will strengthen the local organization supporting English teaching professionals in each country.

¶2. The following is short bio of each nominee.

¶3. Dr. Elias Ghazal - Lebanon: Dr. Ghazal is the head of the English Department at the University of the Holy Spirit at Kaslik (USEK) that offers English courses for the faculties of letters, agronomy, business management, medicine, philosophy and humanities. In addition to his work at USEK, Dr. Ghazal is affiliated with several private schools as a teacher trainer and curriculum coordinator that branches out all over Lebanon where English is taught either as a foreign language or as a second language. To add to his list, he is also affiliated with the National Center for Educational Research and Development in Beirut that is in charge of authoring and producing the national curriculum for the Lebanese public schools where he was a teacher trainer as well as national textbook writer for the English subject textbook.

¶4. Ms. Edith Bitar: Ms. Bitar is the Cultural Affairs Assistant at the Public Affairs Section Beirut. She has been in charge of the English teaching programs in Lebanon since 2000 when Lebanon was added to RELO Amman regional countries and has been a very active key role player in promoting RELO programs in Lebanon since then. Also, Ms. Bitar will part of panel committee to present a session on "Spotlight on TESOL in the Middle East no. 3036 at TESOL 2004. Ever since the launching of English teaching programs at Post, Ms. Bitar has been one of key player in promoting and advancing the program. She is in charge of planning, promoting, and executing Beirut PA English Language programs which includes scheduling visits and workshops of RELO Amman, coordinating visits of English language specialists, assisting outreach program to universities, and disseminating English language materials.

¶5. Mr. Shukri Kandeel: Mr. Kandeel, Educational specialist at United Nation Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA): as an EFL vocational as system-wide EFL analyst, Mr. Kandeel will be able to represent effectively the goals and purposes of the UNRWA schools, the largest UN-operated education system in Jordan. As part of his attending the TESOL 2004 Convention, Mr. Kandeel will be presenting the UNRWA experience with secondary vocational English and producing a supplementary textbook for vocational English at UNRWA vocational schools in Jordan and the region.

¶6. Mr. Mahmud Ismail: is the Head of the Languages and Translation Department at Birzeit University. The Department has 29 English Language instructors teaching courses that help students use English texts in their advanced study. The courses that the department offers are both communication and English for Academic purposes, which are requisite courses for all majors at the university. Mr. Abdul Fattah is very keen on developing and advancing the Languages Department, especially on the aspects of using technology such as computer assisted language learning and online training. In addition to his current at Birzeit University, Mr. Abdul Fattah is contributing to the English language teaching as a foreign language through voluntary activities. This included participating in the British Council Seminars on English for Academic purposes, and organizing the Palestinian Association for Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (PATEFL). Attending TESOL 2004 convention is going to be an excellent opportunity for Mr. Abdul Fattah to connect with the professional community of EFL, at the same

time learning about the best and the latest methodologies, researches and material that he can facilitate to help both his Palestinian colleagues and students.

17. Ms. Inas Deeb: Ms. Deeb is a teacher trainer and advisor working in the Jerusalem area schools assigned initially by the Center for Educational Technologies and subsequently by the Ministry of Education and Jerusalem Municipality. In addition to that, she plays a key role in building the Pedagogic Center for English teachers that includes the co-organizing of the yearlong methodology of English teaching course, which is mandatory for all teachers seeking employment with the Ministry of Education. Among many of the projects that Ms. Deeb is involved in is the TETEC (Teaching English Through Experiencing Culture) course for in-service teacher education, where Ms. Deeb has developed a program of studies and meetings where literally the East meets West: between native Arabic or native English speakers from East Jerusalem meet native English or native Hebrew speakers from West Jerusalem. Thus awarded her an invitation from TESOL 2004 Convention to present and to tape record the session which is based on field notes and reflections noted in the course of planning the methodology course and the TETEC course that are contrasted or measured against issues of cross cultural communication that were experienced.

18. RELO Amman thanks ECA support in providing funds to help these participants to attend such a conference to benefit from.

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